

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 94TH EXBD: ITEM 5.1: MAN AND HIS
ENVIRONMENT (SUB-CHAPTERS 2.2 AND 3.5;
INTRODUCTION, PP. XXIV AND XXV)

1. DELEGATION SHOULD DRAW UPON FOLLOWING POINTS IN ORDER
TO COMMENT APPROPRIATELY IN THE SPECIFIC CONTEXTS CITED.
ALL SUCH U. S. INTERVENTIONS SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH
BASIC THEME DEVELOPED BELOW.

2. WE WARMLY WELCOME DG'S CALL FOR LARGER SSHC CONTRIBU-
TION TO UNESCO'S MAB PROGRAM (PARA 53 OF INTRO. TO 18 C/5).
IT MAY BE, AS DG SUGGESTS, THAT MAB HAS IN PAST NOT BEEN
ENTIRELY RECEPTIVE TO SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS, BUT THIS MUST
CHANGE AND INDEED IS CHANGING. WHAT HAS TO BE RECOGNIZED
IS THAT UNESCO'S ULTIMATE GOAL IN ADDRESSING MAB PROBLEMS
IS THE FULL MOBILIZATION OF ALL RPT ALL SCIENTIFIC
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DISCIPLINES, DRAWN FROM ALL SECTORS OF UNESCO'S WORK, WITH-

IN ONE FULLY INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK, DIRECTED TOWARD SOLUTION OF ENTIRE RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. MAB'S PHYSICAL LOCATION IN SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE OF NO MORE THAN NARROW BUREAUCRATIC INTEREST.

3. ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS WOULD REPRESENT CULMINATION OF INTERSECTORAL, MULTIDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION IN AN AREA WHICH REQUIRES AN INTEGRATED IMPACT IF WE ARE TO MAKE ANY

REAL PROGRESS. THE ALTERNATIVE, OF SEPARATING FROM MAB ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE OTHER SECTORS HAS ALREADY BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND REJECTED BY THE MAB INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL AND ITS BUREAU, WHICH FOUND IN FAVOR OF THE FULLEST POSSIBLE INTEGRATION OF SCIENTIFIC EFFORT.

4. WHILE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH DG'S VIEW THAT UNESCO'S CAPABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT SOCIAL (INCLUDING BEHAVIORAL) ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES MUST BE STRENGTHENED, FOR THIS IS AN AREA THAT HAS RECEIVED FAR TOO LITTLE ATTENTION IN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS, WE DO NOT AGREE THAT THE INTERSECTORAL APPROACH SHOULD BE ABANDONED AND THAT INTRA-SECTORAL STRENGTHENING EFFORTS SHOULD, IN EFFECT, BE ISOLATED FROM THE TOTAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS. THE FACT IS -- AND THIS SHOULD NOT BE LOST SIGHT OF -- THE NEED FOR AN INTEGRATED APPROACH HAS BEEN CENTRAL FOCUS OF MAB PROGRAM, WHICH HAS FROM ITS INCEPTION BEEN STRUCTURED TO INCORPORATE, IN A RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CONTEXT, BOTH SOCIAL AND NATURAL SCIENCE EFFORTS.

5. DG'S PROPOSED NEW ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE IN SSHC, WHICH WE AGREE IS MOST DESIRABLE, SHOULD THEREFORE BE VIEWED AS PRIMARILY A FOCAL POINT AND CATALYST FOR STIMULATING AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS WITHIN SSHC SECTOR TO DEVELOP CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK, METHODS AND DATA BASE ESSENTIAL FOR STUDIES IN DEPTH OF SOCIAL (INCLUDING BEHAVIORAL) AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF MAN'S INTERACTION WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND ADAPTATION UNDER DIFFERENT CONDITIONS OF SOCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE.

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6. IN ORDER NOT TO INTERFERE WITH MOVEMENT TOWARD EVENTUAL CONVERGENCE OF NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE EFFORTS IN THIS AREA, NEW OFFICE'S MULTINATIONAL ACTIVITY SHOULD BE WITHIN MAB FRAMEWORK AND SHOULD NOT RESULT IN DUPLICATIVE, PARALLEL PROGRAMS. ALL OF MAB PROJECTS HAVE A SOCIAL SCIENCE COMPONENT, AND THREE ARE DIRECTLY SOCIAL SCIENCE ORIENTED.

7. AT SAME TIME, NEW OFFICE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PURSUE BILATERAL AND INTER-UN AGENCY PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD NOT LOGICALLY REQUIRE APPROVAL-OR AGREEMENT OF SUCH BODIES IN MAB COUNCIL UN CONFERENCE - EXPOSITION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, SCHEDULED FOR VANCOUVER IN 1976, IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE AND SHOULD BE PRIORITY CONCERN FOR NEW OFFICE.

8. NEW OFFICE'S ORGANIZATION AND METHOD OF OPERATION COULD BE PATTERNED AFTER SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS CURRENTLY OPERATIVE IN HYDROLOGY, ENVIRONMENT, ETC. IN NATURAL SCIENCE SECTOR.

9. INTER-SECTORAL COMMITTEE PROPOSED BY DG (PARA 3384) WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED SINCE INTERCONNECTIONS WOULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH MAB. IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THESE LINKS, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ADDITION OF BROAD-GUAGED SOCIAL SCIENTIST TO MAB UNIT.

10. FINALLY, WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT PROVISION BE MADE FOR A PERIODIC REVIEW BY A GROUP OF EXPERTS, BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE MAJOR DISCIPLINES INVOLVED, OF THE WORK OF THE NEW OFFICE, ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN STRENGTHENING THE SSHC CONTRIBUTION TO MAB'S WORK, ITS RELATIONS WITH MAB, ETC. THE FIRST SUCH REVIEW SHOULD PROBABLY BE UNDERTAKEN TOWARD THE END OF 1977, SO THAT THE EXPERTS' FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS COULD BE USED BY THE 20TH GC IN ASSESSING RESULTS AND CONSIDERING DESIRABLE MODIFICATIONS. RUSH

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